

We can hear the enemy's big guns almost every day, but I don't think there is much chance of a fight down here just now.

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*From William A. Graham, Jr.,
to Susan Washington Graham*

DUKE

Proctors Creek

March 10, 1863

On my return from . . . Appomattox yesterday I received your letter and the box from Lockhart, for which I am much obliged. We have been pitching into the eatables pretty extensively since.

When I was at home you asked me the reason I broke off my engagement with Miss McD. & here it comes. When she engaged herself to me she wore a ring given her by another man and he one given by her as *engagement* rings. She never told me of this at all nor did she return his ring until he wrote her a note returning hers & saying "under existing circumstances he could not wear it any longer." She showed me the note and I had a great mine to break off then but as I was then sick in bed & she had been very kind to me, I put it off but I never loved her so well after that nor did I respect her as much. Besides this, she was a person who when any friend or relative went away & returned, she appeared to go beside herself or in plainer words "made a fool of herself," and I had as soon marry a maniac as that kind of a woman. Not that I do not like affection & feeling but that was too much of a good thing. We corresponded until about May when we pretty well stopped. I wrote her in June & then again in October requesting in the last to be released from all engagements. She replied that she was willing & it was what she had desired for sometime. And so William was himself again.

And now the next thing will be something else. . . . I have come across a young lady over here whom I desire to address but would like to get your permission first. I certainly like her better than any one I ever saw, and I know you could not help loving her if you only knew her. She [is] quite pretty but that is not the chief attraction. She has a sweet amiable disposition and a splendid character. It is true she is an episcopalian but then she is low church and goes to all the churches. She went with me to the